

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127801
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TAGS: PORG, TQ

FOL CDR BMDSCOM HUNTSVILLE AL/BMDSC-X 171945Z SENT ACTION
DA WASHDC/DAMO-ZA INFOVCSA WASHDC/DACS-ZB DA WASHDC DAJA-ZA
SAPA-PI/SALL-ZA CDR KRM KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS
CDR SAMTEC VAFB CA PACNAVFACENGCOM PEARL HARBOR HI
SECSTATE CINCPAC SECDEF DIVENGR USAEDPO FT SHAFTER HI
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS BMDPM ALEX VA
CUSAFLDOFC VAFB CASECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR DOTA
/OMSN CINCPAC HONOLULU HI/J7R MAY 17, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

UNCLAS E F T O FOUO
SUBJECT: ENIWETAK, OMELEK ISLANDS, KWAJALEIN ATOLL
1. THIS IS TO ADVISE OF A CURRENT MATTER AT THE KWAJALEIN MISSILE
RANGE (KMR) WHICH MAY RECEIVE PUBLICITY IN THE NEWS MEDIA
AND/OR OTHER AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE US GOVERNMENT.
2. ALL EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE LEASE FOR SUBJECT ISLANDS HAVE
BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. IN 1966, THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 127801

PACIFIC ISLANDS (TTPI) BEGAN COURT ACTION TO OBTAIN USE RIGHTS
FOR THE UNITED STATES. SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY
OFFERS AND COUNTER OFFERS BUT NO FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE
PROBLEM. THE PACIFIC NAVAL FACILITY ENGINEERING COMMAND
(PACFACENGCOM) REPRESENTS DOD RELATIVE TO LAND
ACQUISITION IN THE TTPI.
3. IN DEC 77, A NUMBER OF MARSHALLESE MOVED ONTO OMELEK

AND ENIWETAK ISLANDS. INITIALLY, THEY COOPERATED IN EVACUATING THE ISLANDS DURING HAZARDOUS MISSILE OPERATIONS; HOWEVER, THE APPARENT LEADER OF THE GROUP, HANDEL DRIBO, NOW HAS STATED THAT THEY WILL NOT LEAVE THE ISLANDS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FINAL SETTLEMENT IS REACHED.

4. ON 2 MAY 78 JUDGE HEFFNER, OF THE HIGH COURT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, ISSUED A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION RESTRAINING THE LAND-OWNERS FROM OCCUPYING THE SUBJECT ISLANDS. ON 15 MAY COPIES OF THE COURT ORDER WERE ISSUED TO THE INDIVIDUALS OCCUPYING THE ISLANDS. ON 16 MAY JUDGE HEFFNER VISITED THE ISLANDS. HE FOUND THAT THE INDIVIDUALS HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH THE ORDERS OF THE COURT. HE THEN PROCEEDED, ON THE SPOT, TO HOLD HEARINGS TO DETERMINE IF THE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT. THOSE WHO STATED THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE WERE IMMEDIATELY CITED FOR CONTEMPT. THOSE WHO INDICATED THEY WOULD LEAVE IF A BOAT WERE AVAILABLE WERE CONDITIONALLY CITED CONTINGENT UPON THEIR LEAVING.

5. JUDGE HEFFNER REQUESTED KMR TO PROVIDE A BOAT TO REMOVE THE INDIVIDUALS. THE BOAT WAS PROVIDED ACCOMPANIED BY TWO TRUST TERRITORY POLICE FROM EBeye ISLAND. APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE GROUP OF ABOUT 20 LEFT THE ISLANDS. LATER A GROUP OF ABOUT 8 INDIVIDUALS LEFT EBeye IN DEFIANCE OF TRUST TERRITORY POLICE AND WENT TO THE ISLANDS.

6. HANDEL DRIBO IS NOT ON THE ISLANDS AND OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM. JUDGE HEFFNER IS PRESENTLY ON KWAJALEIN BUT HIS NEXT STEPS ARE UNKNOWN.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 127801

7. SITUATION IS SUCH THAT ADVERSE PUBLICITY COULD RESULT.

8. HIGH COMMISSIONER (HICOM) TTPI HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING CURRENT COURT ACTION. NUMBER OF TTPI POLICE REQUIRED MAY EXCEED THE POLICE RESOURCES OF EBeye; THUS POLICE RESOURCES MAY BE NECESSARY FROM OTHER AREAS IN THE TTPI, INCLUDING THE KWAJALEIN FORCE WHICH IS UNDER CONTRACT TO THIS COMMAND. USE OF THE KWAJALEIN FORCE COULD RESULT IN REACTION AND PUBLICITY ADVERSE TO DA AND/OR DOD.

9. ISLANDS ARE LOCATED IN KMR MID-ATOLL SAFETY AREA WHICH IS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT OFFENSIVE MISSILE TEST PROGRAMS. SITUATION, UNLESS RESOLVED QUICKLY, WILL PRECLUDE RANGE SUPPORT FOR US AIR FORCE ICBM TESTING.

10. THIS COMMAND HAS INFORMED HICOM, TTPI, CURRENTLY AT UN IN NEW YORK, OF ABOVE SITUATION. UNQUOTE VANCE

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